

[22 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

taken at various forums viz. Block Level/State Level/District Level Consultative Committee/State Level Bankers' Committee.

Seizure of pirated CDs

3156. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "The Pioneer" dated the 10th July, 2000, under the caption 'Pak flooding India with pirated CDs, Cassettes';

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the number of pirated CDs seized from a shop in Palika Bazar, New Delhi; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check the smuggling of C.D. from that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No seizure of pirated CDs has been made either by the officers of the Customs Department or by Delhi Police, as reported in the News-item referred to in (a) above.

(c) All the field formations of the Customs Department including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are ever vigilant and on alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods including pirated CDs and cassettes.

Entry of Cooperative Banks into Insurance Sector

3157. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from co-operative banks to enter into insurance business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would give any priority to co-operative sector in their entry for insurance business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the matter of entry of Co-operative Banks into insurance business is being examined by them in consultation with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Collection from public issue by banks

3158. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the less public issue collections by public sector banks during 1999-2000 than the private banks;

(b) if so, the number of public issues floated during 1999-2000 and how much money was collected therefrom by the public sector banks and private banks, separately; and

(c) the reasons for swing in favour of private banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strategy to tackle weak banks

3159. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newitem captioned "Action plan to pep up weak banks by August" as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 14th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to adopt four pronged strategy to tackle weak banks;

(c) if so, the details of the four pronged strategy and how its effective implementation would be done; and

(d) the extent to which the weak public sector banks are likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The three identified weak public sector banks have drawn up comprehensive restructuring plans covering operational,